



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

KYRGYZSTAN

SUCCESS STORY

Tomatoes Bring Higher Profits

USAID project focuses on increasing production of high-value crops in the rural Kyrgyzstan

Challenge

Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country, with only seven percent of its land suitable for agriculture. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the previous collective farms were privatized among the communities, splitting the land in a 0,04-0,20 hectare allotments for each person. The yield of many crops also decreased during this transition, mainly due to the absence of agricultural knowledge of the new owners and loss of markets.

Initiative

To increase rural incomes, in 2004 USAID launched an AgFin+ project to help develop profitable agricultural product value chains in Kyrgyzstan. The three-year project, implemented by Winrock International, assists rural communities by improving agricultural extension and to make these farms more “attractive” to agribusiness in the value chain. Together with local partner organizations, the project organized more than 950 tomato-growing farmers in Osh and Jalalabat Regions into groups and taught them basics of cropping, farm economics, tomato and tomato seedling production, business planning, and marketing.



A farmer is planting tomato seedlings for the next season.

Results

With assistance from the project, in the season of 2004-2005, participating farmers increased their tomato yield by 10.3 tons per hectare on average from their 230 hectares of land. The increase yield resulted in more than \$300,000 in additional income for the participating farmers.

In addition to increased profits, the project facilitated group purchasing of larger quantities of fertilizers, seeds, and other inputs, thus resulting in more than 20% decrease in the price.

USAID's AgFin+ project helped participating Kyrgyz tomato farmers generate more than \$300,000 in additional income from their 2005 harvest.